

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 18508 301534Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 18508 301534Z

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FOR POLADS

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SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS SUMMARY - DEC 30

1. SUMMARY:

-- TWO PRESS COMMENTARIES ALLEGE ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES IN U.S. GIVE HOLLOW RING TO THIS YEAR'S HOLIDAY CHEER.

-- KOSYGIN'S RETURN FROM A FOUR-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO TURKEY RECEIVES EXTENSIVE COVERAGE (SEPTTEL).

-- REPORTING ON ANGOLA IS ESSENTIALLY LIMITED TO REPLAYING TASS STORIES FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES. AN INTERVIEW WITH NETO REVEALS LITTLE GIVE IN THE MPLA LEADER'S POSITION.

-- RIFA'I DELEGATION DEPARTS FOR JORDAN, WHILE SUPREME SOVIET DELEGATION LEAVES ON OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE SUDAN.

-- PONOMAREV RECEIVES CPI SECRETARY N.K. KRISHNAN FOR TALKS ABOUT BROTHERLY RELATIONS.

-- ALL MEDIA REPORT THE RETURN OF THE HELICOPTER CREW FROM CHINA.

-- TWO COMMENTARIES DENOUNCE THE THAIS FOR THEIR "ECONOMIC BLOCKADE" OF LAOS, CHARGE OUTSIDERS WITH ENCOURAGING THE ACTION, AND PLEDGE SOVIET SUPPORT FOR VIENTIANE.

2. UNITED STATES. SANTA CLAUS FARES NONE TOO WELL IN TODAY'S PRESS COVERAGE, AS IZVESTIYA (DEC 29) AND PRAVDA (DEC 30) CARRY ARTICLES FEATURING SANTA BUT DEDICATED TO THE BLEAK ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE U.S. AND PARTICULARLY NEW YORK CITY. PRAVDA'S CARTOON DEPICTS A CHILDLIKE 1976 BEING SCRUTINIZED BY SHADY CHARACTERS LABELED CIA. IZVESTIYA CARRIES A TASS INTERVIEW WHICH HAS CYRUS EATON SAYING THE PRESIDENT MADE A SERIOUS MISTAKE BY LINKING CUBAN ASSISTANCE TO ANGOLA WITH IMPROVEMENT OF CUBA-U.S. RELATIONS.

3. ANGOLA. PRAVDA'S LEAD COVERAGE IS A REPLAY OF VARIOUS TASS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 18508 301534Z

ITEMS ON ANGOLA. AMONG THE SALIENT POINTS: THE AFP IS TOLD BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE ANGOLAN PRESS SERVICE THAT THE U.S. IS PREPARED TO INTERVENE OPENLY IN ANGOLA; A RECRUITING STATION FOR SERVICE IN ANGOLA AND RHODESIA IS NOW OPERATING IN SAN DIEGO; THE CIA IS BEHIND THE "PUPPET" ORGANIZATIONS OF UNITA AND FNLA; AND A NUMBER OF SOUTH AFRICAN SOLDIERS HAVE BEEN CAPTURED BY THE MPLA AND WILL SOON BE DISPLAYED AT A PRESS CONFERENCE IN LUANDA. THE CENTRAL PRESS ALSO RUNS AN INTERVIEW WITH AGOSTINHO NETO IN WHICH HE TAKES A VERY HARD

LINE AND REVEALS NO INCLINATION TOWARD A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OR COALITION GOVERNMENT. NETO IS ALSO EXTREMELY GENEROUS IN HIS PRAISE FOR SOVIET SUPPORT OF HIS "JUST STRUGGLE".

4. MIDDLE EAST. IN EXTREMELY LIGHT COVERAGE, PRAVDA CARRIES A ONE-LINER ANNOUNCING THE DEPARTURE FOR AMMAN DEC 29 OF THE JORDANIAN DELEGATION HEADED BY ABDUL RIFA'I. PRAVDA ALSO CARRIES A BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENT THAT A SUPREME SOVIET DELEGATION HEADED BY S.B. NIYAZBEKOV DEPARTED DEC 29 FOR AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE SUDAN.

5. INDIA. PRAVDA REPORTS THAT PONOMAREV MET WITH CPI SECRETARIAT MEMBER N.K. KRISHNAN. TALKS TOOK PLACE IN "ATMOSPHERE OF CORDIALITY AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING," AND THE TWO SIDES STRESSED THE "CLOSE BROTHERLY TIES" BETWEEN THE CPSU AND CPI, AS WELL AS THE FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE PEOPLES OF THE USSR AND INDIA.

6. HELICOPTER CREW. ALL MEDIA REPORT THE RETURN DECEMBER 29 OF THE SOVIET HELICOPTER CREW WHICH HAD BEEN HELD IN CHINA SINCE MARCH 14, 1974, AND REPEAT THE STANDARD LINE THAT THE CREW HAD BEEN DETAINED ILLEGALLY.

7. LAOS. PRAVDA AND IZVESTIYA BOTH CARRY HARSH COMMENTARIES IN THE CONTINUED CLOSURE OF THE THAI-LAO BORDER. PRAVDA'S ALEKSANDER SERBIN DESCRIBES THE "DIFFICULTIES" FOR THE NEW PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF LAOS CAUSED BY "IMPERIALISM AND FOREIGN REACTION" AND SAYS THAT THE ACTION BY THE "THAI AUTHORITIES" AMOUNTS TO AN "ECONOMIC BLOCKADE" OF LAOS, AND PREVENTS THE SHIPMENT OF SUPPLIES, INCLUDING SOVIET SUPPLIES "TO THE LAOTIAN PEOPLE." SERBIN SAYS THAT THE EARLIER BORDER INCIDENTS CAME FROM THE THAI SIDE AND CITES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 MOSCOW 18508 301534Z

"INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS" SAYING THAT THE CIA IS WORKING WITH LAOTIAN REACTIONARIES WHO FLED TO THAILAND. NEVERTHELESS, HE SAYS, THE LAOTIANS HAVE NOT RESPONDED WITH INCIDENTS OF THEIR OWN. THE ITEM CONCLUDES BY AFFIRMING SOVIET SUPPORT FOR THE YOUNG REPUBLIC. IZVESTIYA'S ITEM, BY B. VASIL'YEV, MAKES MOST OF THE SAME POINTS, BUT ADDS THAT A RECENT THAI PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION TO PEKING REPORTED THAT THE CHINESE BLAMED THE LAOTIANS FOR THE BORDER PROBLEMS. IT CLAIMS THAT "FASCIST HOOLIGANS" WHO RECENTLY DEMONSTRATED AGAINST LAOS IN THE STREETS OF BANGKOK WERE ENCOURAGED BY "MAOIST PROPAGANDA." PRAVDA (DEC 27) CARRIED A SIMILAR ITEM CHARGING THAT THE THAI ACTIONS WERE NOT IN THE INTERESTS OF GOOD-NEIGHBORLY RELATIONS, AND IZVESTIYA (DEC 25) REPORTED A MEETING AT MOSCOW'S FRIENDSHIP HOUSE, ATTENDED BY THE LAOTIAN AMBASSADOR, WHICH AFFIRMED SOVIET SOLIDARITY WITH THE LAOTIAN PEOPLE. COMMENT. THESE ITEMS ADD UP TO INCREASINGLY SHRILL SOVIET OBJECTION

TO THE THAI ACTION REAFFIRMING MOSCOW'S SUPPORT FOR
THE NEW LAOTIAN REGIME. END COMMENT. MATLOCK

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